

# **MINUTES**

## **Bar Harbor Cruise Ship Task Force Thursday August 14, 2008 Council Chambers Municipal Building 93 Cottage Street**

### **I. Call to Order at 8:32 AM**

*Members present were Chairman Paul Paradis, Vice Chairman Chris Fogg, Secretary Anne Krieg, Police Chief Nate Young, Harbormaster Charlie Phippen, Greg Veilleux, Fred Cook, George Seavey, Mary Opdyke, and Greg Gordon*

### **II. Excused Absences**

*Krieg moved, with a second from Fogg, to excuse Mary Opdyke, Bob Bahr and Charlie Phippen from the meeting. All were in favor of the motion.*

III. No minutes were available for review.

IV. *Young moved, with a second from Cook, to adopt the agenda. All were in favor of the motion.*

### **V. Staff Reports**

#### **A. Nate Young and Greg Gordon – Reports on August 2<sup>nd</sup> downtown drop off test.**

The group discussed the operations of the drop off.

Young indicated the need for police staffing for the duration of the operation as there is necessary oversight of buses pulling into the space, leaving the space, cars seeking parking spaces and intersection maneuvering.

Gordon indicated it does add time to the tour route. He also noted that many passengers are apprehensive about getting off if they are not aware of where they are and how to get back to the pier.

It was noted a large proportion of passengers did get off and they immediately sought information on how to get back to the pier.

Fogg noted the importance of giving them a map on the bus to tell them how long it takes to get back to the pier and what is available for them at the stop. Fogg received many positive comments from businesses in the area of the drop off. He is supportive of continuing the tests and seeking a permanent stop.

Opdyke noted that the tour guides are concerned that when people get off, they do not receive the tips they normally would for their services. This is a major source of income from their work.

Krieg agreed that police staffing is crucial as is a map dedicated to cruise ship passengers' usage.

**B. Paul Paradis – Report on July 15, 2008 Council Meeting.**

- i. Council took positive action on fee recommendation.**
- ii. Council took positive action on two additional downtown drop-off test dates.**

**VI. Regular Business**

- A. Continue discussion with Ocean Properties on future plans for West Street and service to Cruise Ship tenders and passengers.**
- B. Possible action on determining the date of the next downtown drop off test.**

There was extensive discussion on appropriate dates using the cruise ship schedule and the size of the ships to maximize the passengers.

*Young moved, with a second from Cook, to use the following dates to test a second drop off point for the cruise ship tour buses: September 18<sup>th</sup> and October 8, 2008. All were in favor of the motion.*

**C. Ship on July 4<sup>th</sup>**

- i. Brief from Nate Young, Charlie Phippen, and Greg Gordon on July 4<sup>th</sup> operational difficulties.**

The new route for the parade benefited the flow of traffic for both cars and buses. Young noted there were some communication problems with his staff on the allowance of cars on West Street that would need to be addressed in the future. There were more crowds along the parade route as well which brought minor issues for crowd control. The population of people overall was beyond capacity. It was also noted that since there were no cars on the pier, then bus maneuvering was easier.

Fogg noted there were more people in town from the parade and for the events thereafter.

Gordon felt the operation worked well. There was ease of flow from the buses and passengers expressed satisfaction with their visit.

- ii. Discussion on how to move forward.**

Discussion ensued about whether this should occur again, given the numbers of people. The parade route would likely continue to be as modified as it benefited automobile traffic flow as well as the buses.

After discussion, the task force took no action because as Seavey noted, the decision for scheduling rests with the Harbormaster.

**D. Taxi Tours on the Pier**

**i. Brief from Nate Young on current practice**

Young discussed briefly on the current practice.

- Issues and policies needing discussion include:
- Location of stands (plan shows them by Harbormaster office)
- Stands' licensing and fairness – number of operators
- Taxi or tour operator?

**ii. Discussion on how to move forward.**

Due to meeting time constraints, this was tabled to the next meeting for further discussion. No action was taken.

**E. Meeting Schedule for fall months**

The group will meet on September 11<sup>th</sup> at Harborview Park to view tender operations, and not again until October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Task force members were encouraged to view the test dates for the drop off to observe operations.

**F. Walking Map**

**i. Report from walking map sub-committee. – no report**

**VII. Public Comment**

The proprietor of the Sea of Cotton noted her support for the second drop off location.

**VIII. Items for next agenda**

The Chair noted taxi stands, second drop off de-brief and an evaluation of other priorities in the Destination Management Plan would be discussed.

**IX. Set next meeting time, date and place**

**A. 8:00 AM, September 11, 2008, Harbor View Park.**

**X. Adjournment at 10:32 AM**

*These minutes were prepared by Anne Krieg, Secretary to the Task Force for review at the November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008 meeting.*